

# SOUTHPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL

## SAFELY AND SUCCESSFULLY REOPENING SCHOOLS



**Strengthening relationships**



**Maintaining healthy operations**



**Supporting the overall health and well-being of students, families, school staff, and community.**

### RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Southport Central School is committed to doing what is necessary to meet all guidelines to allow students to return for in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The following have been adopted from CDC guidelines and the Maine DOE "Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction."

**1**

#### RED LEVEL

The county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and in-person instruction cannot be conducted

**2**

#### YELLOW LEVEL

The county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and hybrid instruction models should be adopted.

**3**

#### GREEN LEVEL

The county has a relatively low COVID-19 risk and in-person instruction can be adopted, adhering to the Required Health and Safety Measures for All

## Promoting Healthy Behaviors to Reduce Spread

The 2020-21 school year will look very different than in the past. As a school staff, we are having to plan for multiple scenarios, any of which will likely change throughout the school year. One constant, however, is the fact that we are going to meet CDC and Maine DOE guidelines for any learning platform and, along with that comes expectations for parents and children, as well.

- Parents/guardians/caregivers will NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING. Staff will meet students at the door, and will walk the children outside after school if they are being picked up, rather than riding the bus.
- In-person volunteers will NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING.



### HAND HYGIENE

All students and staff in a school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus.

### **FACE MASKS AND COVERINGS**

Maine DOE has stated that in order for in-person instruction to resume this fall, all students and staff must wear face masks that cover nose and mouth when inside. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.

Mask breaks should occur throughout the day. Breaks should occur in settings where students can be at least six feet apart and outside or at least with the windows open.



# SYMPTOMS SCREENING AT HOME BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL (for all staff and students)

Students (parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day. School staff will be providing families with the information necessary to do so each day. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and **not** be present at school. SCS will provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and absences.



***In order to ensure everyone's health and well-being, all SCS families are expected to adhere to this Maine DOE expectation.***

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## When Should Students and Staff Stay Home?

STAY HOME if you answer yes to any of these questions:

- ◆ Do you feel sick with any symptoms consistent with Covid-19? (such as new cough, shortness of breath, or other)
- ◆ Have you been around anyone who is unwell?
- ◆ Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
- ◆ Within the past 24 hours, have you had a fever (100.4 or above) or used any fever reducing medicine?

## What if my Child Becomes Sick at School?

- ◆ Southport Central School, as directed by the Maine DOE and CDC, has a medical isolation room, should any student become ill with symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- ◆ The school will notify families immediately, and ask caregivers to pick up their children **as soon as possible, without delay.**
- ◆ Students must be fever-free for 72 hours before returning to school. If tested positive for COVID-19, a minimum home isolation of ten days is recommended.
- ◆ District medical staff will be in contact with families offering updated recommendations before returning to school.

## **PREVENTION MEASURES**

- All students must practice proper CDC infection control measures:
  - ◆ If coughing or sneezing, students must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (and immediately discard the tissue), or the inside of their elbow.
  - ◆ Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth
  - ◆ Avoid touching any surfaces unnecessarily
  - ◆ Refrain from physical contact, including hugs and handshakes
- Restroom procedures will be established to limit the number of students in the hallway at one time.
- Students should only bring to school WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR THE SCHOOL DAY. Toys, stuffies, etc. will not be allowed and serve as a distraction in the learning environment. Any items brought to school should fit into the child's backpack or school bag.
- Classrooms will be reconfigured to allow physical distancing with students facing one direction.
- Sharing of items (electronic devices, books, games and other learning aids) will be discouraged and restricted.
- Each child's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually-labelled containers.
- Parent night, open house, etc. will be facilitated virtually.
- Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will not be allowed, unless they can be done outside, following distancing guidelines.
- For more information, see the CDC's informational video on How to Stop the Spread of Germs

***Parents/guardians are asked to review these expectations and practices with children prior to the start of the school year.***

## FOOD SERVICE

- \* On any given day, only one classroom may have lunch in the lunchroom; others will eat in their classrooms.
- \* Students must maintain six (6) feet of distancing while eating, as they will not be wearing face coverings during this time.
- \* Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle each day.
- \* Shared food is prohibited. Parents are asked to only send food for their child and NOT class consumption (i.e., birthdays or holiday celebrations).
- \* Students will be required to practice proper handwashing/sanitizing prior to eating.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- ◆ Adults must maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this document of safety requirements.
- ◆ Six feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will not be able to wear masks at that time.
- ◆ A “medical isolation room” must be designated for students/staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. This room is located downstairs in what was formerly a teachers’ room.

## SCHOOL PLAYGROUND USE



- ◆ Use of designated playground equipment and supplies will be allowed under close monitoring
- ◆ Use of face coverings/shields will NOT be required during this time as long as physical distancing is maintained.
- ◆ Limits will be placed on the number of students on equipment at one time.
- ◆ Students will wash their hands/use sanitizer before and after using playground equipment.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to transport their child to and from school, if able.
- Students are required to wear a face covering at all times while on the bus, including upon entry/exit.
- Families should be vigilant to limit contact between other parents/students at bus stops and school grounds by maintaining a six (6) foot distance.
- Students will be seated one student per row and distanced according to guidelines with the seat directly behind the driver remaining open. Prohibited seats will be marked with tape. Families will be allowed to sit together. Students will be assigned seats and must sit in the seats assigned to them.
- Several windows will be slightly opened to improve air ventilation.
- Upon arriving at school, the driver will dismiss students to maintain social distancing.
- Bus drivers will clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces between use, each day.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- ◆ In a hybrid or remote instruction model, 1:1 laptops will be provided for students in grades 2-6, while iPads will be provided for students in grades K/1.
- ◆ Parents/guardians will be required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy before devices will be sent home.
- ◆ Parents/guardians agree to return the borrowed devices at the end of the school year, or the remote learning time, unless otherwise determined.
- ◆ Sharing of devices between students will not be allowed.



## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Additional safety precautions are required for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, or when a student requires physical assistance.



- ➔ These precautions must at a minimum include eye protection (i.e., face shield or goggles) and a mask/face covering.
- ➔ Classrooms and/or areas that have been used by an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must be closed off until thorough cleaning and sanitization takes place.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & STUDENT LEARNING**

- ✓ Faculty and staff of SCS will continue to engage in professional development in preparation of remote, in-person, and hybrid instruction models.
- ✓ SCS faculty and staff will consider flexible grouping, along with our multi-age classrooms in order to best meet the needs of our learners.
- ✓ When we employ in-person learning, we will engage in practicing with remote learning platforms, in order to be prepared should we find it necessary to move to an all-remote learning environment.
- ✓ While it is our goal to have all student back at school for in-person instruction in the fall, we recognize that it may be necessary to be prepared for transitioning to a hybrid or remote learning model, in the event that health and safety recommendations require smaller group sizes and a greater degree of physical distancing.
- ✓ Faculty and staff are engaged in learning opportunities to employ what is thought to be the most appropriate online platform for SCS students and families, should we be required to move to remote learning or a hybrid model.
- ✓ SCS faculty and staff, supported by our school board, recognize the need to provide students with necessary materials and resources to support engagement in all lessons.

*It is important to remember that Maine's Department of Education (DOE), in consult with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), may change our school and/or district's color level with little notice. The DOE will be reviewing data to determine such every two weeks; as a result, plans are subject to change.*

